

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, July 17, 2012 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Erickson, Rosemary Desisles, Duane Pierce, Delores Pierce, Jim Haskins, John Walschinski, Joe Witkowski, Jerry Polus, Ed Koslowski, Sherry Steenbock, Donald Bettine, Becky Murkley

****Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1264**

1. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Bernie Erickson at 5:00 p.m.

2. Invocation by Jim Haskins.

3. Approve/Modify Agenda.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DONALD BETTINE, SECONDED BY JIM HASKINS TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Approve/Modify Minutes of June 19, 2012.

Joe Witkowski stated he did not feel a member should be marked "excused" if they do not attend the meeting and do not call in with a valid excuse.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JOE WITKOWSKI, SECONDED BY DUANE PIERCE TO APPROVE. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Discussion regarding Military Appreciation Day at Brown County Fair.

Becky Murkley, Assistant Administrator/Manager of the Fair and Ed Koslowski of the NE Wisconsin Veterans Meet and Greet attended the meeting to answer questions.

Jerry Polus provided an agenda for events at the Fair. This agenda provides for booths to be set up for Veterans organizations and VA representatives in the information tent from noon until 6:00 p.m. Polus stated that around 6:00 p.m. anyone in the tent will be encouraged to go to the ceremony which will be held on the stage. Murkley stated that they need information regarding any military vehicles that will be there before they can finalize the layout; however at this time it is anticipated that the stage will be located next to the youth exhibit hall.

Polus also had a proposed layout of the tables in the tent, although it was not finalized at this time as there still may be others who wish to participate. He hopes to have this finalized by the end of July. Polus stated the American flag as well as flags of the veterans organizations represented will be set up at the entrance of the tent. He also stated there will be two front tables at the entrance of the tent. Rosemary Desisles will be the greeter at one of the tables and will assist with getting people registered to receive certificates. She will need some help during the six hour window and Delores Pierce indicated she would be able to help. The other table at the entrance will be the door prize table where the prizes are displayed and tickets distributed. Duane Pierce and Jim Haskins will handle this.

Murkley asked about any military vehicles that would be displayed and Ed Koslowski stated that the Veterans Center will be bringing their van and Polus stated that he contacted Schneider to see if they would bring their Ride of Pride truck over and he is

still waiting for confirmation on this. Murkley stated that they can continue to work on the final layout of the area once these things are confirmed. She also stated that the Fair will provide cookies and lemonade.

Joe Witkowski asked if it would be helpful to have the benefits advocate from the Appleton VA Clinic in attendance. Polus responded that Military One Source will be there and the VA Medical Center will have two social workers coming from the Appleton Clinic who will be able to assist in enrollment as well as issues and concerns of returning veterans. The VA regional office is also coming from Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and Aging and Disability Resource Center of Brown County will be available along with three veterans representatives from the Job Center.

Ed Koslowski stated that Rolling Thunder will post the American flag outside the tent but that flag will also need to be used at the ceremony. Koslowski suggested that if the horses are used in the flag posting, that the flags be picked up at the tent and then paraded to the stage area and presented to Rolling Thunder who will then post the colors.

Polus continued with the agenda and said that John Maino will act as emcee and will kick off the program at 6:15 p.m. with the posting of colors and singing of the Star Spangled Banner. He will then introduce County Executive Streckenbach who will give a brief welcome and then introduce Erickson who will talk briefly about the subcommittee and its role. The door prize drawing will follow Erickson's remarks. This portion of the program should be done by 6:30 – 6:35 p.m. and Rolling Thunder will then do their table ceremony which will last 15 – 20 minutes. At 7:00 p.m. the Air Force Band "Starlifter" will perform. After the band completes their performance, the colors will be retired.

Polus also informed the group that the Fair Board had recently voted to provide free admission to spouses as well as veterans but stated that the spouse will still need to have a ticket. This information was included in the letter sent to the veterans organizations.

Polus continued that groups should start arriving to set up booths in the tent after 11:00 a.m. Polus and Koslowski will be on hand to direct the groups to their tables, and the tables will also be marked. He also stated that he is not able to finalize a timetable for the visit to the Hall of Fame and lunch with the band at this time because he does not know the band's exact travel schedule.

Polus reported that posters and tickets had been mailed out to all area veterans organizations. He continued that he still had to get posters to NWTC, National Guard Armory, Naval Reserve Center, Army Reserve Center and the libraries. Bernie volunteered to deliver posters anywhere they needed to go. Several of those in attendance took additional posters for distribution. Polus also stated that John Maino will promote the event on the air and he will work with Bernie to make arrangements for this. Jim Haskins also stated that he had contacted the local television stations as well as the community calendar on Time Warner Cable. Haskins asked what the Fair was doing for publicity and Murkley stated that the ceremony was on their schedule and website as well as in the Fair program.

Polus suggested that the next Veterans Recognition Subcommittee be held a week early so that it occurs before the Fair. It was decided to hold the next meeting on August 14 at 5:00 p.m.

6. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus re: company store and current inventory.

With regard to the company store, Polus reported that he had ordered coffee mugs which have come in and he also ordered 36 white tee shirts which should be in after August 1. Some of these items will be used for door prizes at the Fair.

Polus also commented on the Veterans Court and stated that there is some likelihood that the Veterans Court will have a table at the Fair. He stated that there are currently four vets participating and they anticipate bringing in four to six more within the next month.

7. Report from Committee Members Present (Bettine, Desisles, Haskins, Maino, Ness, Pierce, Steenbock, Walschinski & Witkowski).

-Donald Bettine shared an article from the Legion magazine that after a decade long battle started by the ACLU, the memorial cross in the Mojave Desert has been restored. The case was sent back to the trial court for details to be worked out and is now settled and the question has been put to rest and the veterans can restore the cross to the Sunrise Rock site, a great victory in the battle for the right to express faith in the public sphere.

-Rosemary Desisles stated that she will contact John Maino to remind him to bring background music to be played throughout the day in the tent at the Fair.

-Jim Haskins stated that he had distributed all of his Fair posters. He also stated that he had seen something on TV that a veterans golf scramble will be held on July 21, 2012 at Irish Waters Golf Course with funds raised being donated to programs for returning veterans. He also reported on the "Goodyear Gives Back" program which has a long history of supporting troops. From July 1 through August 31 Goodyear will donate up to \$250,000 to help military personnel and their families. He concluded that \$150,000 had recently been donated to veterans organizations from sales and donations at the Barrett-Jackson auction.

-Duane Pierce stated that they had a pretty successful ride at the Pearly Gates. They had at least 480 bikes and 50 hot rods. He did not have figures as to the total amount raised, but felt that it would be close to what was raised last year which was about \$50,000.

-Sherry Steenbock reported that 13 new certificates had been mailed out this month.

-John Walschinski reported that as he had mentioned at last month's meeting, he is on the ad hoc committee at the Village of Howard working on the Veterans Memorial. He stated that out of 15 presentations on the memorial, his and one other had been selected to be turned over to an architect to move forward. He was honored to put his skills to good use to help his post and honor veterans.

-Joe Witkowski mentioned an article he had seen in the paper about the Home Depot Foundation. Their associates volunteer thousands of hours to renovate homes and facilities for veteran and their families and to date have donated more than \$30 million dollars to the effort. He also stated that he had seen an article that veterans received free admission to the Seymour Speedway on July 15.

8. Such other Matters as Authorized by Law. None.

9. **Adjourn.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY SHERRY STEENBOCK,
TO ADJOURN AT 6:00 P.M. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary